



Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman
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House, Senate Leaders Begin Final Work on Bush Education Plan

House and Senate education leaders yesterday began the process of putting the finishing touches on President Bush's *No Child Left Behind* education plan, which has passed both houses of Congress by overwhelming bipartisan margins.

Rep. John Boehner (R-OH), who was elected to chair the House-Senate conference, welcomed Senate education leaders to the final talks, and pledged to sustain the bipartisan momentum behind the bills and deliver a final product to the President as soon as possible.

"We have some differences to address, but I believe we have the will to resolve them, and resolve them quickly," Boehner said. "We will move as quickly as possible to complete a bill that is true to the principles of reform President Bush has set forth."

"We will begin conference meetings immediately, and proceed with the same bipartisan momentum that has marked this process from the beginning," Boehner added.

One of the key topics for the conference, Boehner said, will be ensuring that federal education spending is refocused on the goal of helping disadvantaged students. While the House bill helps students and schools by streamlining the federal bureaucracy and reducing red tape, the Senate bill expands the number of ESEA programs from 55 to 89. The House bill reduces the overall number of programs to 47, according to a Congressional Research Service analysis.

Message of the Day

The House-Senate conference must focus on President Bush's plan to target federal education resources toward helping disadvantaged students.

- ❑ *States should be required to demonstrate that they are closing achievement gaps between disadvantaged students and their more affluent peers.*
- ❑ *Federal education resources should be focused on helping students who are most in need of help.*
- ❑ *We should increase funding for programs that have proven effective and ensure that federal education dollars are targeted to where they will make the biggest impact for our children.*

DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- In order to consolidate ESEA programs and enhance flexibility, the House bill reduced the overall number of ESEA programs by 36. The Senate version reduced the total by only 10. The House added three ESEA programs through the amendment process. The Senate added 29 new programs.
- According to the Congressional Research Service, the House authorized a total of 47 ESEA programs for FY 2002, while the Senate authorized a total of 89. According to the Department of Education's totals, there are 49 programs in the House bill and 115 in the Senate bill.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Additional spending on education surely is justified. But the increase must be carefully directed and effectively spent. In the past, increased spending and the creation of multiple new programs have not improved student achievement." **President George W. Bush, June 15, 2001**